DR. FOLKMER

1965 -

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The coming of Dr. Carl W. Folkemer to Christ Church as Pastor becomes a thrilling and heart warming event that did much to allay the fears, shame, the cynicism and strengthen the conviction of each member who had sung in this "singing congregation" through the years this hymn "He Leadeth Me" that indeed He had! With amazing courage, demonstrated ability, and a love and loyalty to Christ Church where "fond memories are thronging yet, around "The Church you Can't Forget," Pastor Folkemer took hold, no doubt seeing faces "loved long since and lost awhile". Here in this "new" Pastor was a rare combination of heart and mind, idealism and shrewd practicability. The man for the hour had come to Christ Church.

Since his ordination into the ministry in 1940, this son of Christ Church had served two congregations before coming to his home church. He was Assistant Pastor of Lutheran Place Memorial Church in Washington, D.C., for two years and for the following 23 years served as Senior Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Linthicum, Maryland, where he constructed a church building. Besides being the head of a growing congregation Pastor Folkemer had also been a student, teacher and a translator of Christian beliefs. Several years after he received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree, he earned a degree in Systematic Theology and in 1963 was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at Gettysburg College. For many years Dr. Folkemer taught Church History and Christian Beliefs at the Lutheran Deaconess School in Baltimore. He translated Martin Luther's "Explanations of 93 Theses" from Latin into English, Volume 31 of "Luther's Works"; chaired the Examining Committee of the Maryland Synod; served on Christian Education Committee and Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of Maryland; belonged to the American Society for Reformation Research.

When Dr. Folkemer returned to Christ Church he brought with him another former member, his wife, Ruth Ann Morganthall Folkemer, whose family, along with Dr. Folkemer's had contributed greatly to the Church throughout its history. Now their three children, two of whom are married, are active participating supporters of the Church on Charlesaand HillStreets.

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In a letter to the congregation written by Dr. Folkemer, September 21, 1965, he stated that meetings had been held with city officials and planners, social agencies and urban church renewal advisors in cooperation with Baltimore City's

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projected plan for the Inner Harbor Renewal Project where plans were outlined for service to the aged, the sick and infirm, and the culturally and economically deprived citizens of Baltimore, through the building by our Church of four major buildings, located at the southern most section of the Inner Harbor Project.

1 - A non profit Nursing Home which would provide medical and nursing care for those unable to afford the high cost of treatment. (Later planned as a Medical Nursing Center).

2 - An apartment house overlooking the harbor and reasonably priced for elderly low income people.

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4 - A beautiful Plaza under which will be a parking garage.

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The project was enthusiastically embraced by the people and so on January 23, 1966, the congregation adopted the following resolution:

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Mr. Henninger set up the administrative work for the appeal which was to begin the first part of 1967 and go through Lent. In his survey he reported that 94.8% of the congregation was vitally or normally interested and were psychologically prepared for the great undertaking. With such enthusiastic support the Lutheran Laymen's Movement was engaged January 9, 1967 to work with the loyal, consecrated and devoted members of Christ Church.

On February 13, 1967 a Fellowship Dinner was held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel where the guest speakers were the two sons of Dr. Deaton, for whom the Medical Center was to be named. The Lutheran Laymen's Movement had said we could realistically raise $250,000 over a three-year period with the hope of getting $350,000, and the dream of receiving as much as $425,000. Just one week after the dinner a commitment of $156,916 from 151 families visited had already been made. By March $322,990 had been committed with 25% of the congregation yet to be visited and on July 2, 1967, $419,156.44 was the final figure pledged.

The Capital Funds appeal closed the end of March 1970. At a Thanksgiving dinner held May 16, 1970 at the Lord Baltimore an announcement was made of cash received totaling $470,000. To date the total amount of money received is almost three-quarters of a million dollars. Dr. Folkemer attributes this amazing feat to love when he said "because you love one another that love could never be confined within these walls or among our own people".

-6- (Dr. Folkemer)

At the May 1970 dinner it was also announced that a Disposition Agreement for the purchase of the property north of the Church was to be signed by representatives of the Church and by the Mayor. Back in January 1968 funds were released by the Federal Government for the Inner Harbor Project and the City began to purchase and demolish property. However, it wasn't until April 1969 that the dwellings on Hill and Charles Streets were torn down. The first house on Hill Street to go was #8 East Hill Street, the home of a life-long member of Christ Church. After the approximate 5 acres, bounded by Hill Street on the South, Charles Street on the West, Light Street on the East and Lee Street on the North, were cleared and purchased, the next step was the actual construction of the buildings.

Many, many meetings had been and were to be held in order to execute this very complicated project. Lawyers had to draw up Articles of Incorporation for each section of the project and Boards of Directors were chosen by the Church Council, thus controlling the corporations. The Nursing Center which as of January 1968 was referred to as "John L. Deaton Medical Nursing Center" and which will cost $6,900,000 is financed by the money raised during the Capital Funds Appeal, the Hill-Burton Government Grant and private gifts.

It is to have four floors with the main entrance on the Charles Street side of floor one. This floor will also have a lobby, kitchen, dining room, offices, physical and occupational therapy rooms and a Chapel. The second, third and fourth floors will give a total of 220 beds, a few private, several 4 patient and mostly semi-private patient rooms, each room having a private bathroom. On these floors there will also be two lounge areas and examination rooms. In the east wing (Hill Street side) of the 4th floor, ten renal dialysis units will be located to treat kidney patients.

The bids for the construction of the Medical Center were opened on September 9, 1970 with the lowest bid going to The McShain Construction Co. Inc. Finally on January 11, 1971 the ground breaking ceremonies were held and almost one year later, on the occasion of the 8hth anniversary of the Church, on December 12, 1971

the cornerstone was laid.

An Endowment Fund started in March 1968 by the gifts of very large contributions of money will be used to help financially indigent patients - those who cannot afford medical care. The Medical Center will be operated in conjunction with the University of Maryland Hospital in training medical and nursing students. It is hoped this service to the people will be opened by December of 1972.

The second phase of this building complex, The Christ Church Harbor Apartments, had its ground breaking ceremonies October 24, 1971. The architect of the apartment building is Mr. Don Hisaka of Cleveland, Ohio who designed an 8 story building of 288 unit apartments, of which 256 are one bedroom while 32 are effidency apartments. On the first floor will be a lounge, plus a pharmacy. The second through the eighth floors will be the location of the apartments, each with a balcony, facing either the harbor or the plaza. Also on three floors will be a laundry room and small recreation room. This $5,850,000 home for low and moderate income elderly people is being constructed through gifts, plus an F.H.A. loan of $5,710,000, supported by an interest subsidy under Section 236 of the National Housing Act.

While these two buildings are in the process of being constructed, a 130 car garage ground garage, costing $595,000 is also being built. This is being financed through a loan from the Offstreet Parking Commission, plus the sale of stock and private loans.

Above the garage and between the Medical Center and Apartment House a plaza is to be erected with a beautiful fountain, trees and benches. This will be a place in which one can walk, sit or talk. There will be art shows, concerts and plays presented here. Hill Street will no longer exist, but will become part of a walkway between the Church and the other buildings. The address for Christ Church will be "Christ Church Plaza".

Earlier in this history it was stated that there was a plan for a recreation community house type building, but because the city plans to build a community oriented complex, including schools, west of Christ Church, the plans for such a structure were abandoned by the committee. Instead on the northern side of the complex an office building is to be constructed for the use of social service and related agencies. Plans, calling for a $3,750,000 building, financed through the sale of stock, plus a commercial mortgage, are being formulated with the expectation that ground breaking will occur in 1973.

Along with these four corporations there is activity in the John L. Heaton Endowment Fund previously mentioned; Harbor Center, Inc., a public foundation to raise funds in the business and industrial community, and Christ Church Complex Fund, a source for funds for broad use in the total complex.

Although many hours and much skill has been given by laymen working voluntarily for Christ Church, the complexity of the project demanded the full-time efforts of a coordinator. In April 1968, Mr. William Albert Bortner, a high level executive, specializing in planning, research and development was hired in this capacity. In the three years Mr. Bortner was with us he proved to be a highly respected individual and a skilled planner. After his death in April 1971, Mr. Barry J. Widen became the Administrator of the complex. With a Master's Degree in Hospital administration and extensive experience in building and operation of Nursing Homes, Mr. Widen came to be with full knowledge and competence in his position. Miss Lois McGovern was also hired in 1972 as the Director of Nursing for the Medical Center. In the midst of all this planning, after Pastor Fogarty left, we were blessed with the services of a new Associate Pastor - Eduard G. Goetz, who was with us for 3½ years before his death April 28, 1971. This man of great faith came to us from St. Johns Lutheran Church, Lancaster, New York, and started his ministry here September 1967. In the time he was with us, Dr. Goetz touched many lives. A resolution by the Church Council May 7, 1971 reads:

"He was one of the most dedicated and spiritually effective pastors in the history of Christ Church. Just as Christ served mankind in His active ministry during a period of approximately 3 years in a manner that others could not serve in a whole lifetime, so His servant, Dr. Goetz, compressed into a little over three years at Christ Church a love and devotion that many servants of the Church are not able to accomplish in a lifetime".

The Rev. Justus H. Liesmann followed Dr. Goetz and was installed July 11, 1971. Having served several pastorates in Baltimore, with the recent experience of Administrator of Augsburg Lutheran Home of Maryland, Pastor Liesmann's past experiences are serving him well in his capacity as Associate Pastor of Christ Church.

Our latest student intern, Thomas H. Williamsen, has become our Assistant Pastor. He was with us in 1970-71 as a student intern and after completing his senior year and graduating from Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., the congregation overwhelmingly voted for him to become our Assistant Pastor. He was ordained July 1, 1972. Pastor Williamsen was greatly inspired by Pastor Goetz and is a great asset to our Church.

Several part-time pastors have been made available to us. In 1961 the Rev. Lester J. Houghtaling, a retired U.S.A. Chaplain with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, began visiting shut-ins and giving communion. In 1967 Pastor Houghtaling left to become Vice-Pastor of St. Paul's, Mt. Winans.

The Rev. John Schulze assisted with visitations in the fall of 1969 when Pastor Goetz, was hospitalized. During the Lenten Season 1972, Dr. Fred Weibel, Jr., a retired Pastor from the Magothy-Chelsea Parish gave private communion.

In the office force to assist Miss Zumbrun, Mrs. Edith Schott Jones was employed in the fall of 1960. After retiring December 31, 1971, Mrs. Jones was replaced by Mrs. Rosabelle Timm.

The reader will have noticed by now that other than the ministerial sons, such as Robert N. Maddox, Jr., who just became our 14th son to enter the ministry when he graduated from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, June, 1972, only names mentioned have been staff members of Christ Church. Legions of names have been left out. The Church is people and it has been the people of Christ Church who have carried on the work of the leaders; some being great leaders in their own right. To name some workers and not name all, whether the contribution be large or small, would be to leave out a servant of God. You know many of the names and as you read what has been done you can insert who had a part. I dare say any member of Christ Church, plus many friends who read this history can emblazon their own name somewhere.

For YOU are the one who:

Worships weekly at the 8:30 or 11:00 A.M. service or through the recorded broadcast at 8:00 A.M. every Sunday morning.

Supports the financial commitment of the Church through contributions in a three part weekly envelope, monthly benevolence envelopes and special gifts.

Serves with others on the Church Council giving of yourself to meetings every month of the year, as well as to services for the people.

Comes to a Sunday school of 300 active members to teach or to learn about your faith so that you can live a better life.

Sings in a choir of adults or teens or children, to lead others in praising God's Holy Name.

Sees that the Altar is ready for worship through faithful, quiet efforts in the Altar Guild or Acolyte Guild.

Attends Luther League to plan service projects, to participate in meaningful youth services, to serve on the Youth Council so that people know the joy and seriousness of being a teenager.

Participates in the L.C.W., visiting shut-ins, serving suppers, sewing, knitting and crocheting for hospital patients.

Volunteers a day a week packing, driving or delivering food, so that shut-ins through Meals on Wheels have two balanced meals Monday through Friday.

Stays in the library Sunday morning from 9:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. and often during the week selecting, sorting and arranging over 2,000 volumes for the enjoyment of children and adults.

Engages in serving on committees where your special talents are used to further the word of the Lord.

Works with boys through scouting to lead them into a more meaningful life.

Enjoys the fellowship of Christian brothers and sisters through bowling, picnics, suppers and Christmas socials.

As we reflect on what we have accomplished in 85 years and look to future years with anticipation, the words of "Dr. Folkemer in a "Tribute to a Congregation" written on the occasion of our 84th Anniversary leads us to the faith that belongs to the children of God:

"---- the glory and the praise belong first to God. With God all things are possible. All God needs is a man, a woman, a child, a congregation that is responsive to His grace and power and love. We are the stewards of His Grace. All that is needed is that we be found faithful. If all that we attempt to do now and in the future conforms to His Will and His Grace then ----, the greatest opportunities for greatness are in the years which lie before us at "The Church you Can't forget".

Work Copy

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Supplement for Dr. Folkemer is attached page

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Th Lutheran Laymen's Movement, a group of business men who specialize in fund raising appeals, sent Mr. Lawrence Henninger to visit the congregation in October 1966 to inform them of their plans in carrying out the capital funds program for the construction of the Medical Center.

Mr. Henninger set up the administrative work for the appeal which was to begin the first part of 1967 and go through Lent. ~~Mr. Henninger~~ In his survey he reported that 94.8% of the congregation was vitally or normally interested and were psychologically prepared for the great undertaking. With such enthusiastic support the Lutheran Laymens Movement was engaged January 9, 1967 to work with the loyal, consecrated and devoted members of Christ Church.

On February 13, 1967 a Fellowship Dinner was held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel when the guest speakers were the two sons of Dr. Deaton, for whom the Medical Center was to be named. The Lutheran Laymens Movement had said we could realistically raise $250,000 over a three year period with the hope of getting $350,000, and the dream of receiving as much as $425,000. Just one week after the dinner a commitment of $156,916 from 151 families visited had already been made. By March $322,990 had been committed with 25% of the congregation yet to be visited and on July 2, 1967, $419,156.44 was the final figure pledged. The Capital Funds Appeal closed the end of March 1970. At a Thanksgiving dinner held May 16, 1970 at the Lord Baltimore an announcement was made of cash received totaling $470,000. To date the total amount of money received is almost three-quarters of a million dollars. Dr. Folkemer attributes this amazing feat to love when he said "because you love one another that love could never be confined within these walls or among our own people".

At the May 1970 dinner it was also announced that a Disposition Agreement for the purchase of the property north of the Church was to be signed by representatives of the Church and by the Mayor. Back in January 1968 funds were released by the Federal Government for the Inner Harbor Project and the City began to purchase and demolish property. However, it wasn't until April 1969 that the dwellings on Hill and Charles Streets were torn down. The first house on Hill Street to go was #8 East Hill Street, the home of a life-long member of Christ Church. After the approximate 5 acres, bounded by Hill Street on the South, Charles Street on West, Light Street on the East and Lee Street the North, were cleared and purchased, the next step was the actual construction of the buildings. - Dr. Folkemer

Many, many meetings had been and were to be held in order to execute this very complicated project. Lawyers had to draw up Articles of Incorporation for each section of the project and Boards of Directors were chosen by the Church Council, thus controlling the corporations. The Nursing Center which as of Janury 1968 was referred to as "John L. Deaton Medical Nursing Center" and which will costs $6,900,000 is financed by the money raised during the Capital Funds Appeal, The Hill-Burton Government Grant, and private gifts. It is to have four floors with the main entrance on the Charles Street side of Floor one. This floor will also have a lobby, kitchen, dining room, offices, physical and occupational therapy rooms and a Chapel. The second, third and fourth floors will have a total of 220 beds , a few private, several 4 patient, and mostly semi-private patient rooms, each room having a private bathroom. On these floors there will also be two lounge areas and examination rooms. In the east wing (Hill Street side) of the 4th floor, ten renal dialysis units will be located to treat kidney patients. The bids for the construction of the Medical Center were opened on September 9, 1970 with the lowest bid going to The McShain Construction Co. Inc. Finally on January 31, 1971 the ground breaking ceremonies were held and almost one year later, on the occasion of the 84th Anniversary of the Church, on December 12, 1971 the cornerstone was laid.

An Endowment Fund started in March 1968 by the gifts of very large contributions of money will be used to help financially indigent patients - those who cannot afford medical care. The Medical Center will be operated in conjunction with the University of Maryland Hospital in training medical and nursing students. It is hoped this service to the people will be opened by December of 1972.

The second phase of this building complex, The Christ Church Harbor Apartments, had its ground breaking ceremonies October 24, 1971. The architect of the apartment building is Mr. Don Hisaka of Cleveland, Ohio who designed an ~~11~~ 8 story building of ~~288~~ 288 unit apartments, of which 256 are one bedroom while 32 are efficiency apartments. On the first floor will be a lounge plus a pharmacy. The second through the ~~eleventh~~ eight floors will be the location of the apartments, each with a balcony facing either the harbor or the plaza. Also on three floors will be a laundry room and small recreation room. This $5,850,000 home for low and moderate income elderly people is being constructed through gifts, plus an F.H.A. loan of $5,710,000, supported by an interest subsidy under Section 236 of the National Housing Act.

While these two buildings are in the process of being constructed, a 130 car underground garage, costing $595,000 is also being built. This is being financed through a loan from the Offstreet Parking Commission, plus the sale of stock and private loans.

Above the garage and between the Medical Center and Apartment House a plaza is to be erected with a beautiful fountain, trees and benches. This will be a place in which ~~you~~ one can walk, sit or talk. There will be art shows, concerts and plays presented here, ~~because~~ Hill Street will no longer exist, but will become part of a walkway between the Church and the other buildings. The address for Christ Church will be "Christ Church Plaza".

Earlier in this history it was stated that there was a plan for a recreation community house type building, but because the city plans to build a community oriented complex, including schools, west of Christ Church, the plans for such a structure were abandoned by the committee. Instead on the northern side of the complex an office building is ~~being planned for~~ to be constructed for the use of social services and related agencies. Plans, calling for a $3,750,000 building, financed through the sale of stock, plus a commercial mortgage, are being formulated with the expectation that groundbreaking ~~taking place~~ will occur in ~~December of 1972.~~ 1973.

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Along with these four corporations there is activity in the John L. Deaton Endowment Fund previously mentioned; Harbor Center, Inc., a public foundation to raise funds in the business and industrial community, and Christ Church Complex Fund, a source of funds for broad use in the total complex.

Although many hours and much skill has been given by laymen working voluntarily for Christ Church, the complexity of the project demanded the full time efforts of a coordinator. In April 1968, Mr. William Albert Bortner, a high level executive, specializing in planning, research and development was hired in this capacity. In the three years Mr. Bortner was with us he proved to be a highly respected individual and a skilled planner. After his death in April, 1971, Mr. Barry J. Widen became the Administrator of the complex. With a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration and extensive experience in building and operation of Nursing Homes, Mr. Widen came to us with full knowledge and competence in his position. Miss Lois McGovern was also hired in 1972 as the Director of Nursing for the Medical Center.

In the midst of all this planning, after Pastor Fogarty left, we were blessed with the services of a new Associate Pastor - Edward G. Goetz, who was with us for 3½ years before his death April 28, 1971. This man of great faith came to us from St. Johns Lutheran Church, Lancaster, New York, and started his ministry here September 1967. In the time he was with us, Dr. Goetz touched many lives. A resolution by the Church Council May 7, 1971 reads:

"He was one of the most dedicated and spritually effective pastors in the history of Christ Church. Just as Christ ~~saved~~ served mankind in His active ministry during a period of approximately 3 years in a manner that others could not ~~save~~ serve in a whole lifetime, so His servant, Dr. Goetz, compressed into a little over three years at Christ Church a love and devotion that many servants of the Church are not able to accomplish in a lifetime".

The Rev. Justus H. Liesmann followed Dr. Goetz and was installed July 11, 1971. Having served several pastorates in Baltimore, with the recent experience of Administrator of Augsburg Lutheran Homes of Maryland, Pastor Liesmann's past experiences are serving him well in his capacity as Associate Pastor of Christ Church.

Our latest student intern, Thomas H. Williamsen, has become our Assistant Pastor. He was with us in 1970-71 as a student intern and after completing his senior year and graduating from Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., the congregation overwhelmingly voted for him to become our Assistant Pastor. He was ordained July 1, 1972. Pastor Williamsen was greatly inspired by Pastor Goetz and is a great asset to our Church.

Several part time pastors have been made available to us. In 1964 the Rev. Lester J. Houghtaling, a retired U.S.A. Chaplain with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, began visiting shut-ins and giving communion. In 1967 Pastor Houghtaling left to become Vice-Pastor of St. Paul's, Mt. Winans.

The Rev. John Schulze assisted with visitations in the fall of 1969 when Pastor Goetz was hospitalized. During the Lenten season 1972, Dr. Fred Seibel, Jr., a retired Pastor from the Magothy-Chelsea Parish gave private communion.

To the office force to assist Miss Zumbrun, Mrs. Edith Schott Jones was employed in the ~~summer~~ fall of 1960. After retiring December 31, 1971, Mrs. Jones was replaced by Mrs. Rosabelle Timm.

The reader will have noticed by now that other than the ministerial sons, such as Robert W. Maddox, Jr., who just became our ~~13th~~ 14th son to enter the ministry when he graduated from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, June, 1972, any names mentioned have been staff members of Christ Church. Legions of names have been left out. The Church is people and it has been the people of Christ Church who have carried on the work of the leaders; some being great leaders in their own right. To name some workers and not name all, whether the contribution be large or small, would be to leave out a servant of God. You know many of

the names and as you read what has been done you can insert who had a part. I dare say any member of Christ Church, plus many friends who read this history can emblazon their own name somewhere.

For YOU are the one who:

Worships weekly at the 8:30 or 11:00 A.M. service or through the recorded broadcast at 8:00 A.M. every Sunday morning.

Supports the financial commitment of the Church through contributions in a three part weekly envelope, monthly benevolence envelopes and special gifts.

Serves with ~~14 other~~ 15 persons in addition to a Treasurer, Secty and Financial Secty on the Church Council, gives of yourself to meetings every month of the year, as well as to services for the people.

Comes to a Sunday School of 500 active members to teach or to learn about your faith so that you can live a better life.

Sing in a choir of adults or teens or children, to lead others in praising God's Holy Name.

Sees that the Altar is ready for worship through faithful, quiet efforts in the Altar Guild or Acolyte Guild.

Attends Luther League to plan service projects, to participate in meaningful youth services, to serve on the Youth Council so that people know the joy and seriousness of being a teenager.

Participation in the L.C.W., visiting shut-ins, serving suppers, sewing, knitting and crocheting for hospital patients.

Volunteers a day a week packing, driving or delivering food, so that shut-ins thru Meals on Wheels have two balanced meals Monday through Friday.

Stays in the library Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:45 A.M., and often during the week selecting, sorting and arranging over 2000 volumes for the enjoyment of children and adults.

Engages in serving on committees ~~when~~ where your special talents are used to further the work of the Lord.

Works with boys through scouting to lead them into a more meaningful life.

Enjoys the fellowship of Christian brothers and sisters through bowling, picnics, suppers and Christmas socials.

As we ~~look at~~ reflect on what we have accomplished in 85 years and look to future years with anticipation, the words of Dr. Folkemer in a "Tribute to a Congregation" written on the occasion of our 84th Anniversary leads us to the faith that belongs to the Children of God:

" ~~*~~ ---- the glory and the praise belong first to God. With God all things are possible. All God needs is a man, a woman, a child, a congregation that is responsive to His grace and power and love. We are the stewards of His Grace. All that is needed is that we be found faithful. If all that we attempt to do now and in the future conforms to His Will and uses His Grace then ---- the greatest opportunities for greatness are in the years which lie before us at "The Church You Can't Forget".